Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" (page 1, lines 4-8) with the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of priority to US Provisional Application Nos. 60/411,006, 60/434,526 and 60/458,800, filed on September 16, 2002, December 19, 2002 and March 28, 2003, respectively, and is the national phase of the WO 2004/024292, filed on September 8, 2003 (PCT/IB2003/004543), the contents of each are hereby incorporated by reference herein in the entirety.

Please replace the "Brief Description of The Drawings" (page 4, lines 10-22) with the following paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 depicts aspects of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention in accordance with the teachings presented herein.

Figure[s] 2 ~~and 3~~ depicts exemplary embodiments of electrostatically charged substrates.

Figure 3 depicts exemplary embodiments of electrostatically charged substrates.

Figure 4a and 4b depict[s] an exemplary embodiment for providing a nonwoven media with an active agent incorporated thereon.

Figure 5a and 5b depict[s] alternative views of an exemplary embodiment of a face mask in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 6 depicts an aspect of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 5b.

Exhibit A summarizes an experiment using different filtration membranes against BG spores for varying time durations.

Exhibit B summarizes an experiment using different filtration members against MS2 viruses for varying time durations.

Please replace the paragraph (page 6, line 5) with the following paragraph:

As stated above, in one embodiment, the substrate is a nonwoven fabric. Nonwoven is a type of fabric that is bonded together rather than being spun and woven into a cloth. It may be a manufactured sheet, mat, web or batt of directionally or randomly oriented fibers bonded by friction or adhesion; it may take the form of a type of fabric. Figure 1 is provided as an exemplary embodiment of a nonwoven fabric (11) (Figure 1).

Please replace the paragraph (page 11, line 15) with the following paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, as shown in Figure 4a and 4b, polymer granules (41), such as polypropylene granules, are extruded through an extruder (42); the extruded fibers (44) being of varying thickness and length (Figure 4a and 4b). As the fibers are extruded they fall toward a collecting web (43) (Figure 4a). A desired active agent is provided in a cloud at a location closest to the extrusion point of the resulting fibers. The cloud envelops the cooling fibers while the fibers are still in a quasi-liquid quasi-solid state. In one embodiment, the active agent particulate may range from 0.2 microns to 0.5 millimeters. However, one of ordinary skill in the art can apply active agents with smaller and bigger particulates size. The active agent particulate settles and collects so that it is intermeshed or entrapped with the fibers (43) on the collecting web (Figure 4a). After the fibers with the active agent incorporated thereon falls to the collecting web, the resulting media is formed into a mesh by known methods. Additionally, the cloud may be in various physical states including a vapor, fine dry dust, or atomized or aerosolized particulate. Advantageously, cloud incorporation may occur at room temperature with particulate also at room temperature. Further, the thickness, length and pressure define the mechanical properties of the resulting media.

Please replace the paragraph (page 16, line 4) with the following paragraph:

In a particular embodiment, the filter media according to the present invention with or without the active agent can be used as a closure or to make a filter closure for air filters for products such as facemasks and HVAC. See Figures 5a and 5b. According to the present invention there is provided a closure material (51) made of substrate having electrostatic properties and an electrostatic material with an active agent incorporated therein, where the material is a high loft (in one embodiment, approximately, 1" thick) breathable material of a tri-dimensional structure (51) (enlarged shown in Figure 6) and is placed around the mask (54) or air filter in order to not create a so-called airtight junction but instead creates a breathable closure (52) (Figure 5a) that actually covers all the contours (53) of the different geometrical surface to provided a permeable closure, having filtering properties. (Figure 5b) This approach makes the closure into a filter whereby air that bypasses the mask (54) through gaps caused by a non-perfect fit, still passes through the closure (52) and is filtered. (Figure 5a) In addition, contrary to a "resilient" closure the pressure differential that is detrimental in an airtight approach is reversed in our approach since the air following the path of least resistance will pass through the filter material of the mask instead. This method of closing a facemask or other filter type could also be achieved with a substitution of the non-woven filter element (61) with a breathable foam having the same properties. See Figures 5a, 5b and 6[, label A]. Thus, while prior art facemask attempt to block air flow at the closure, the facemasks of the present invention acts as a gasket that allows air there through and kills the spores, virus, bacteria, fungi, etc. traveling through the airstream with an effective active agent, such as the iodinated resin disclosed in the U.S. Pat. No. 5,639,452 (the '452 patent), described above. Additionally, the use of straps to hold the mask in place compresses the gasket of the present invention to fit essentially all faces.

Please replace the paragraph (page 17, line 4) with the following paragraph:

Experimental Data

Experimental tests were performed comparing a particular embodiment of the filter media of the present invention to an existing electrostatic filter. Each test was run in the same environment to treat air with a different contaminant. The experimental data provided was collected during

these tests. In each of the tests a contaminant was introduced into a chamber in a controlled amount and fed into four lines. Two of the lines included a filter according to the present invention comprising an electrostatically charged filter with an iodinated resin according the the '452 patent incorporated thereto. The third line included an electrostatically charged filter, known as ~~Transweb~~ TRANSWEB® (a synthetic non-woven fabric for use as a filtration media; from Transweb, LLC, NJ, USA). This filter does not have antimicrobial properties or any other type of active agent incorporated thereto. And a fourth line was provided as a control, having no filter and was used to confirm that the amount of contaminant entering the control chamber was equivalent to the amount of contaminant exiting the control chamber.

Please replace the paragraph (page 18, line 4) with the following paragraph:

As can be seen in Exhibit A, the electrostatic filter of the present invention achieves the essentially the same or similar net effect as the ~~Transweb~~ TRANSWEB® in these tests. However, an important advantage provided is that the present invention sterilizes the spores rather than just holding the spores to the filter. Thus, unlike the present invention, if the ~~Transweb~~ TRANSWEB® is handled by a user or is contacted by the skin, contamination will occur. The present invention maintains the hygiene of the filter.

Please replace the paragraph (page 18, line 11) with the following paragraph:

Turning now to Exhibit B, the results of Experiment AF270 there is shown test results for the performance of different filtration membranes against MS2 viruses for 30, 60, 120, 180, 240 300, and 360 minutes of filtration. Virus amounts ranging from 1 to 1000 viruses will cause illness in the average human. Thus, the presence of even one virus can cause illness in a human. As can be seen in Exhibit B, for each of the 30, 60, 120, 180, 240, 300 and 360-minute tests, the filter of the present invention achieved a 100% reduction of MS2 viruses from the airstream. However, the ~~Transweb~~ TRANSWEB® does not achieve a 100% reduction in MS2 viruses and allows between 1000 to 10000 viral units to be found in the effluent air stream. Use of ~~Transweb~~ TRANSWEB® to air contaminated with MS2 viruses would not achieve desired results. Thus, as can be seen in Exhibit B, in addition to the benefits of sterilization properties described above with respect to Exhibit A, the present invention protects more effectively over viruses such as

MS2 over time. Because only a small amount of viruses contaminate a human (1 to 1000 viruses), unlike the present invention, ~~Transweb~~ TRANSWEB® does not effectively protect a user from these viruses.